

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the non-final Office Action dated January 30, 2007. A Petition for a One-Month Extension of Time is filed concurrently herewith. The present Amendment amends claims 1-14 in order to further clarify a portion of the scope sought to be patented, and otherwise disputes certain findings of fact made in connection with the rejection of the claims. Support for these amendments can be found variously throughout the specification, including, for example, original claims 1-14, and in Fig. 2. No new matter has been added.

Accordingly, claims 1 to 15 are presently pending in the application, each of which is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration in light of the present Amendment and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claim to Priority

Acknowledgement of the proper receipt of the certified formal papers filed in connection with Applicant's claim to priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) is noted with appreciation.

Information Disclosure Statement

It is also noted with appreciation that the Information Disclosure Statement filed on April 20, 2005 has been considered by the Examiner.

Claim Objections

The Applicant thanks the examiner for a thorough reading of the claims. In accordance with the examiner's suggestion, claims 1, 9, and 14 and various other claims have been amended to correct minor informalities. Withdrawal of this objection is therefore courteously solicited.

Claim Rejections- 35 U.S.C. § 112

In the Action, claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for alleged indefiniteness. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. However, in order to expedite

prosecution, claims 1, 5-7, and 12 have been amended in accordance with the examiner's comments.

Claim 1 as amended provides antecedent basis for "a first pipe," "a second pipe," "a third terminal," a "fourth terminal," and "a fifth terminal." With reference to Fig. 2, a "first pipe" is consistent with pipe (3), and a "second pipe" is consistent with pipe (5).

Claims 5-7 and 12 are amended herewith to remove the phrases "such as," "etc.," "and the like," and "like" from the claims. The claim wording as amended more clearly defines the subject matter of the claims.

Withdrawal of the rejection of these claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. DAD-0016 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: May 30, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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